HE'S BACK-- BRAINIAC--
THE VILLAIN WHO WOULDN'T DIE!
50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 514
DEC.
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SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION
COMICS
WHAT A PERFECT WAY TO DESTROY YOU, SUPERMAN-- WITH THE WEAPONS AND TROPHIES OF YOUR OWN FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE!
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S-3479
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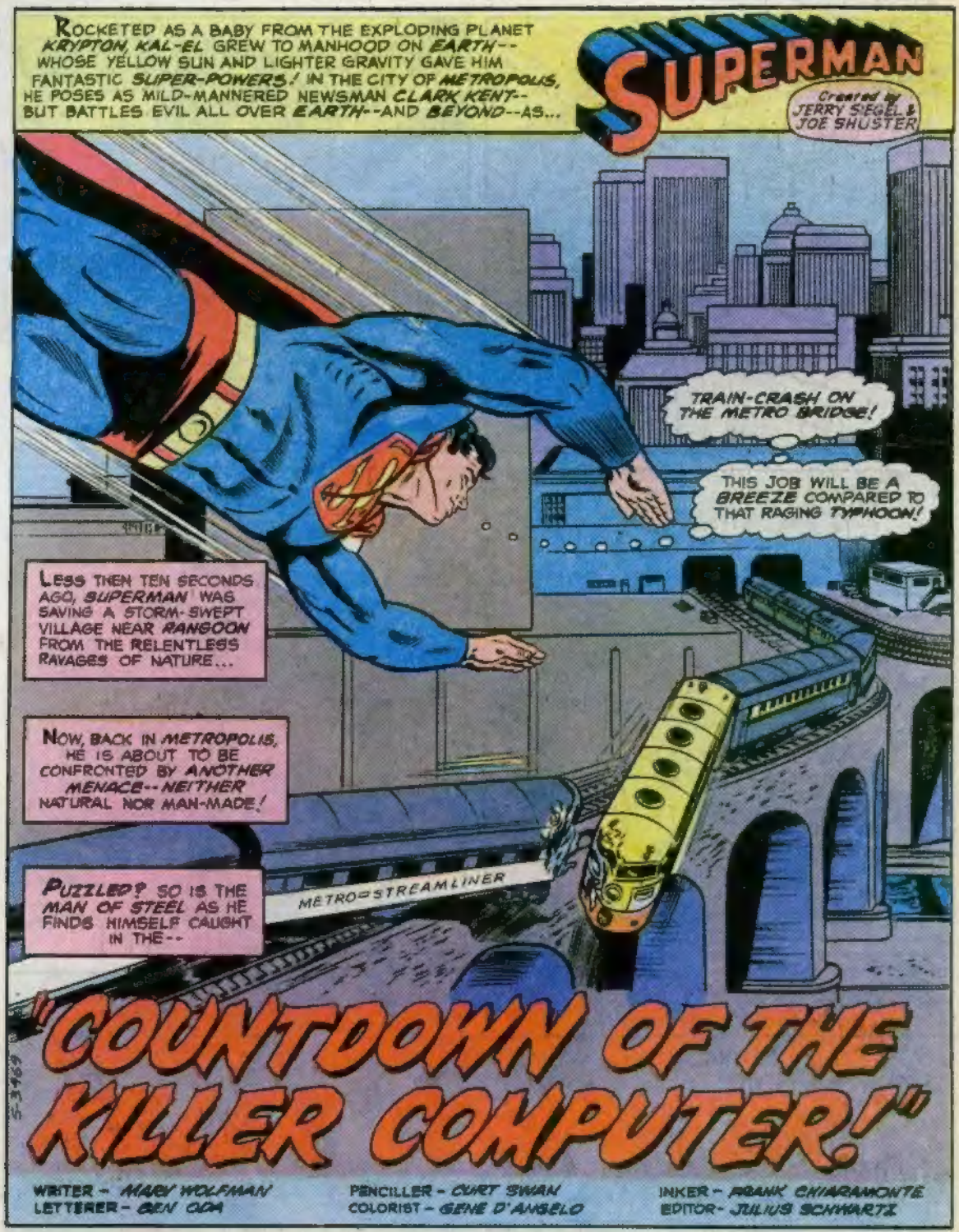
ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
TRAIN-CRASH ON THE METRO BRIDGE!
THIS JOB WILL BE A BREEZE COMPARED TO THAT RAGING TYPHOON!
LESS THEN TEN SECONDS AGO, SUPERMAN WAS SAVING A STORM-SWEPT VILLAGE NEAR RANGOON FROM THE RELENTLESS RAVAGES OF NATURE...
NOW, BACK IN METROPOLIS, HE IS ABOUT TO BE CONFRONTED BY ANOTHER MENACE--NEITHER NATURAL NOR MAN-MADE!
PUZZLED? SO IS THE MAN OF STEEL AS HE FINDS HIMSELF CAUGHT IN THE--
METRO-STREAMLINER
"COUNTDOWN OF THE KILLER COMPUTER!"
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LETTERER - GEN COA
PENCILLER - CURT SWAN
COLORIST - GENE D'ANGELO
INKER - FRANK CHIARAMONTE
EDITOR - JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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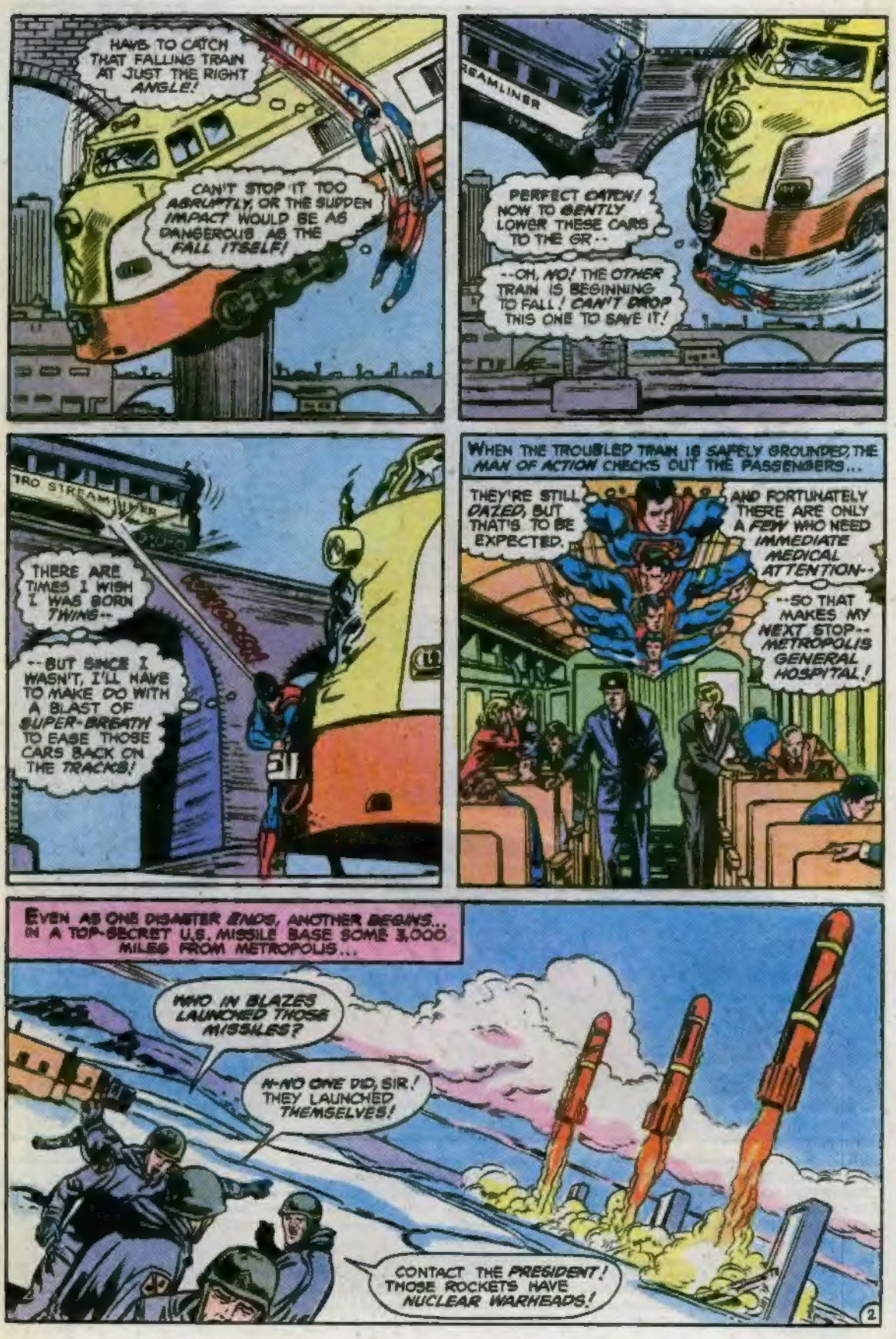
HAVE TO CATCH THAT FALLING TRAIN AT JUST THE RIGHT ANGLE!
CAN'T STOP IT TOO ABRUPTLY, OR THE SUDDEN IMPACT WOULD BE AS DANGEROUS AS THE FALL ITSELF!
PERFECT CATCH! NOW TO GENTLY LOWER THESE CARS TO THE GR--
--OH, NO! THE OTHER TRAIN IS BEGINNING TO FALL! CAN'T DROP THIS ONE TO SAVE IT!
THERE ARE TIMES I WISH I WAS BORN TWINS--
--BUT SINCE I WASN'T, I'LL HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH A BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH TO EASE THOSE CARS BACK ON THE TRACKS!
WHEN THE TROUBLED TRAIN IS SAFELY GROUNDED, THE MAN OF ACTION CHECKS OUT THE PASSENGERS...
THEY'RE STILL DAZED, BUT THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
AND FORTUNATELY THERE ARE ONLY A FEW WHO NEED IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION--
--SO THAT MAKES MY NEXT STOP-- METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL!
EVEN AS ONE DISASTER ENDS, ANOTHER BEGINS... IN A TOP-SECRET U.S. MISSILE BASE SOME 3,000 MILES FROM METROPOLIS...
WHO IN BLAZES LAUNCHED THOSE MISSILES?
N-NO ONE DID, SIR! THEY LAUNCHED THEMSELVES!
CONTACT THE PRESIDENT! THOSE ROCKETS HAVE NUCLEAR WARHEADS!
2

AS THE ROCKETS ARC ON A PRE-SET COURSE ACROSS ALASKA'S CHUKCHI SEA, SUPERMAN COMPLETES HIS MISSION OF MERCY...
WITH LUCK, THEY'LL ALL PULL THROUGH WITHOUT COMPLICATIONS.
STRANGE HOW THAT ACCIDENT OCCURRED!
THE COMPUTERS WHICH MONITOR THE TRAIN-ROUTES SHOULD HAVE ALERTED THE ENGINEERS IN TIME TO STOP THE COLLISION!
EMERGENCY EXTRACT
EH? TRAFFIC LIGHTS AREN'T WORKING!
THE CARS DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO STOP OR GO— CAUSING A TERRIBLE TRAFFIC SNARL!
KRRELLUP!!
I'VE GOT THAT SCREAM PERMANENTLY TATTOOED ON MY MIND! LOIS IS IN TROUBLE--
GREAT KRYPTON! THE ELEVATOR'S PLUNGING TO THE GROUND!
NO TIME TO BE GENTLE-- HOPE LOIS AND THE OTHERS WON'T BE TOO JARRED BY THE SUDDEN STOP!
CABLES FIRMLY IN HAND, THE MAN OF STEEL LOWERS THE PLUMMETING ELEVATOR TO THE FLOOR BELOW. THEN...
YOU ALL RIGHT, LOIS?
I THINK I LEFT MY STOMACH ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR... BUT I GUESS I'LL LIVE.
HOW COULD SUCH A THING HAPPEN?
LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A COMPUTER OVERRIDE ON THE ELEVATOR CONTROLS!
IT'S BEGINNING TO FORM A PATTERN-- THE TRAIN COMPUTERS WENT AWRY... SAME WITH THE TRAFFIC-LIGHT CONTROLS... NOW THIS!
MEANWHILE, FAR FROM METROPOLIS, ACROSS THE BARREN, ARCTIC WASTES...
IT HAS BEGUN AT LAST! MY POWER EXTENDS EVERYWHERE!
AND SOON... VERY SOON-- I SHALL POSSESS ENOUGH POWER TO DESTROY SUPERMAN-- ALONG WITH THIS WORLD HE SO VALIANTLY STRUGGLES TO PROTECT!
3

WHILE WE ALLOW OUR MYSTERY TO BREW A BIT LONGER, LET'S RETURN TO METROPOLIS, WHERE...
OH, DARLING, I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING--
HOLD ON, LOIS-- I'M PICKING UP JIMMY'S ULTRASONIC SIGNAL!
ZEE-ZEE-ZEE
JIMMY? BUT I JUST LEFT HIM IN HIS OFFICE!
THEN THAT'S WHERE I'M HEADED--!
SUPERMAN! WOW! TALK ABOUT FAST SERVICE--!
THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY JUST CALLED-- THEY NEED YOU! IMMEDIAT--
BUT, EVEN BEFORE JIMMY OLSEN CAN COMPLETE ANOTHER WORD, A RED-AND-BLUE BLUR IS STREAKING OUT OF METROPOLIS, AND APPEARING OVER WASHINGTON, D.C....
ISN'T HARD TO GUESS THEY NEED ME BECAUSE OF THIS COMPUTER FOUL-UP!
IT SEEMS TO HAVE SPREAD ACROSS THE WHOLE COUNTRY!
YOU GENTLEMEN CALLED? OH... MR. PRESIDENT-- I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE HERE!
WE'RE FACING AN AWFUL EMERGENCY, SUPERMAN! FOR NO APPARENT REASONS, MISSILES HAVE LAUNCHED THEMSELVES--!
--AND EVEN NOW ARE SPEEDING TOWARD MOSCOW!
WHAT'S EVEN WORSE, SUPERMAN --RUSSIAN MISSILES ARE HEADING DIRECTLY TOWARD US!
IT APPEARS OUR COMPUTERS ARE BEING CONTROLLED BY SOME OUTSIDE SOURCE-- ONE WHO SEEMINGLY WANTS WAR DECLARED!
DON'T WORRY, SIR--
WE DESPERATELY NEED YOU, SUPERMAN! THE WORLD NEEDS YOU!
--I'LL DO MY VERY BEST NOT TO LET YOU DOWN!
MR. PRESIDENT, IF ANYONE CAN SAVE US NOW-- THAT'S THE MAN!
HE'S MORE THAN JUST A SUPER MAN... HE'S A GODSEND!
4
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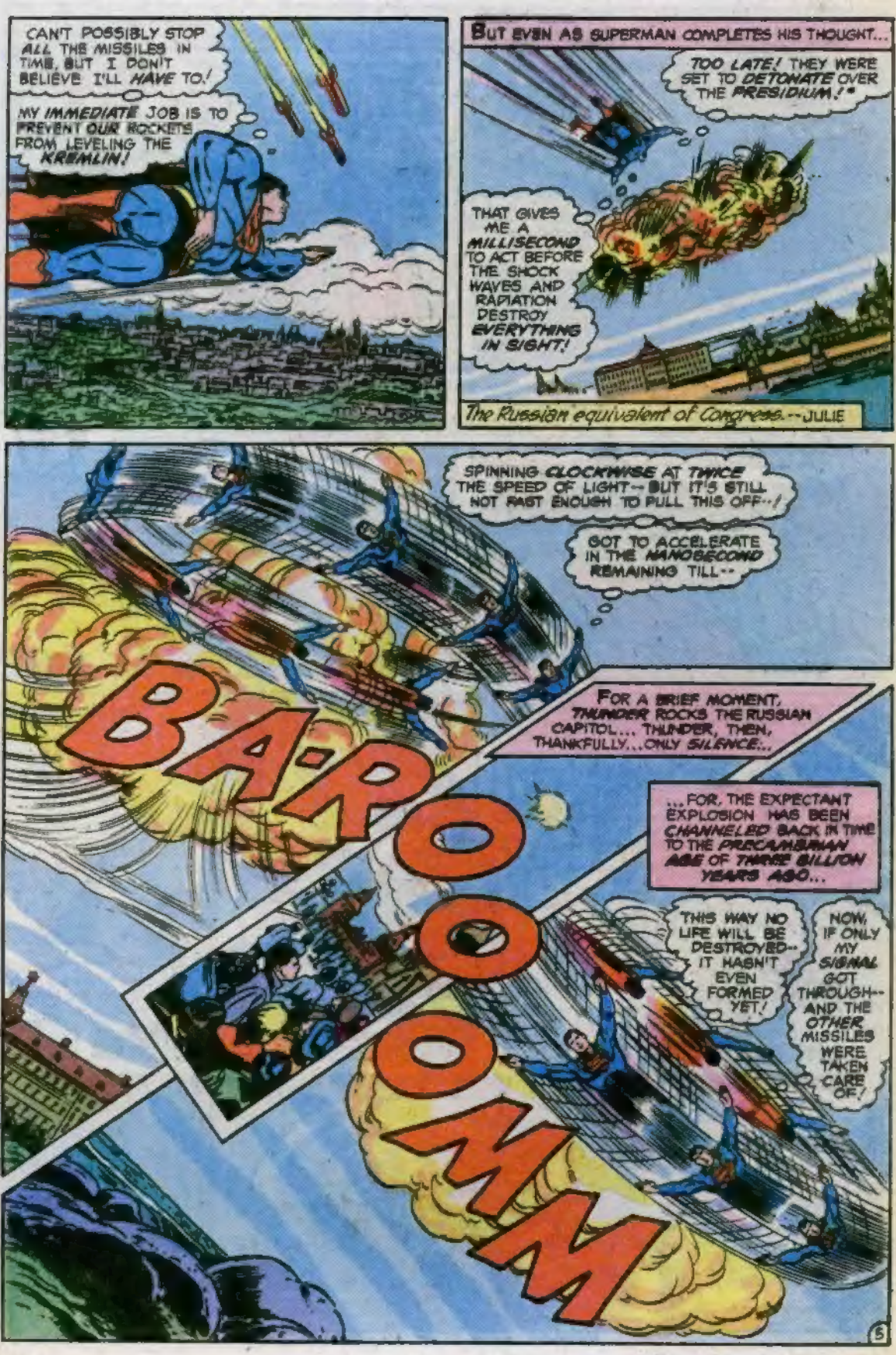
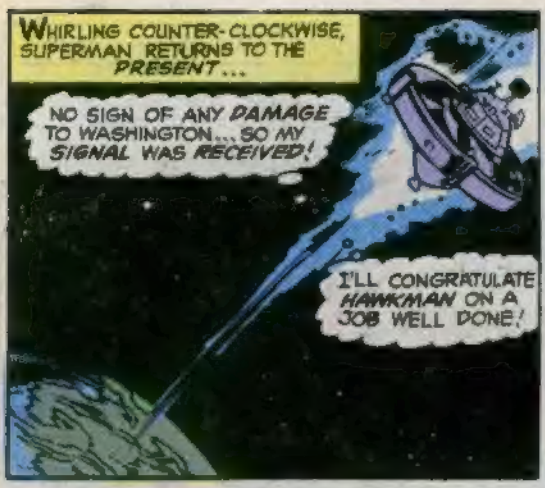
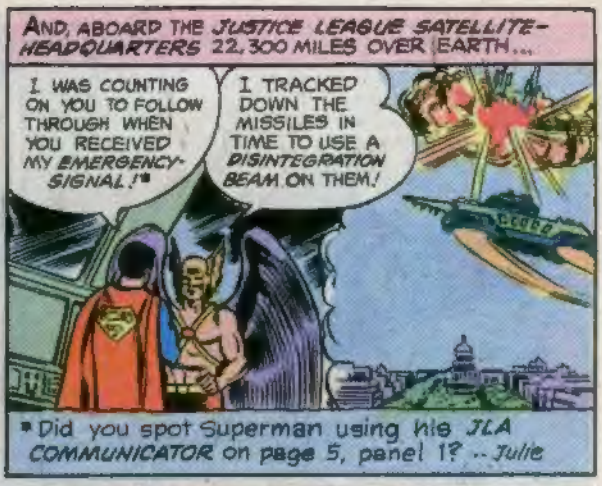
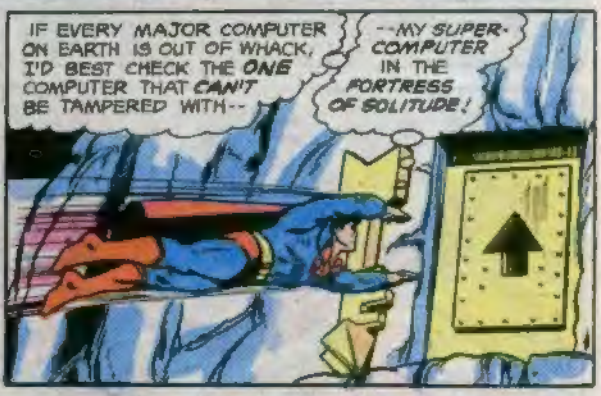
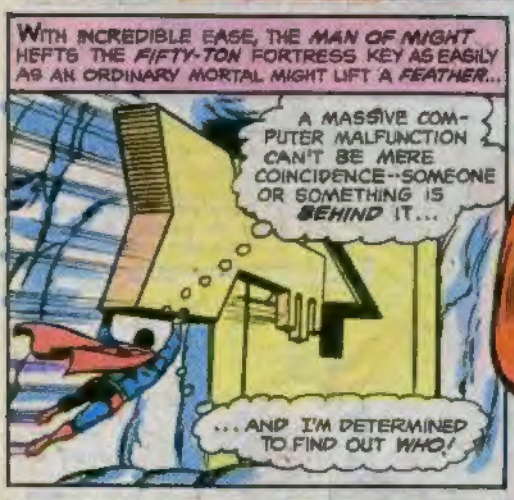

CAN'T POSSIBLY STOP ALL THE MISSILES IN TIME, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE I'LL HAVE TO!
MY IMMEDIATE JOB IS TO PREVENT OUR ROCKETS FROM LEVELING THE KREMLIN!
BUT EVEN AS SUPERMAN COMPLETES HIS THOUGHT...
TOO LATE! THEY WERE SET TO DETONATE OVER THE PRESIDIUM!*
THAT GIVES ME A MILLISECOND TO ACT BEFORE THE SHOCK WAVES AND RADIATION DESTROY EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!
*The Russian equivalent of Congress.--JULIE
SPINNING CLOCKWISE AT TWICE THE SPEED OF LIGHT--BUT IT'S STILL NOT FAST ENOUGH TO PULL THIS OFF--!
GOT TO ACCELERATE IN THE NANOSECOND REMAINING TILL--
BA-ROOOMM
FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, THUNDER ROCKS THE RUSSIAN CAPITOL... THUNDER, THEN, THANKFULLY...ONLY SILENCE...
...FOR, THE EXPECTANT EXPLOSION HAS BEEN CHANNELED BACK IN TIME TO THE PRECAMBRIAN AGE OF THREE BILLION YEARS AGO...
THIS WAY NO LIFE WILL BE DESTROYED--IT HASN'T EVEN FORMED YET!
NOW, IF ONLY MY SIGNAL GOT THROUGH--AND THE OTHER MISSILES WERE TAKEN CARE OF!
6

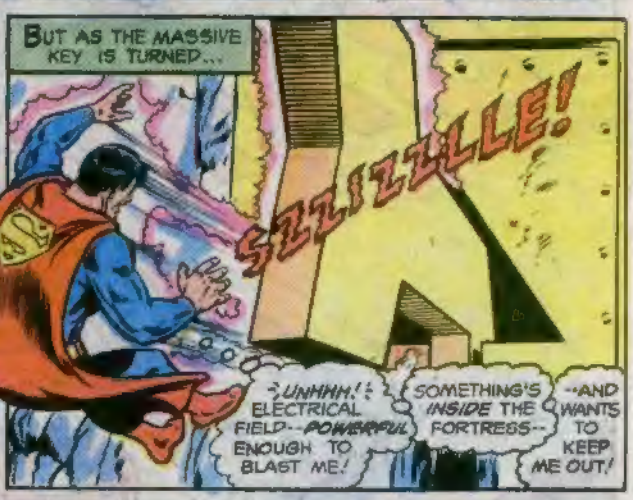




* Did you spot Superman using his JLA COMMUNICATOR on page 5, panel 1? -- Julie






BUT AS THE MASSIVE KEY IS TURNED...
SSSS

EVIDENTLY, THOSE COMPUTER-DISASTERS WERE DESIGNED TO KEEP ME BUSY-- AND AWAY FROM THE FORTRESS!
WELL, I'M JUST CURIOUS ENOUGH TO WANT TO FIND OUT WHY!
A SINGLE STEP IS ALL IT TAKES FOR SUPERMAN TO TRIP A SOLAR-POWERED SECURITY BEAM...
... AND, BEFORE HE CAN MAKE A MOVE...
WHAT IS THIS? BEING GRABBED BY ONE OF MY SECURITY-ROBOTS!?
IT WAS PROGRAMMED TO IGNORE MY PRESENCE IN THE FORTRESS!
ANOTHER ROBOT ATTACKING ME -- ARRGG! I FELT THAT BLOW!
BUT HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? I DIDN'T MAKE THESE SEC-ROBOTS SO STRONG!
WHOMP
I BETTER WONDER ABOUT THE "HOW" LATER--
--AFTER I'VE STOPPED THEM FROM TRYING TO TURN ME BLACK-AND-BLUE!
OBVIOUSLY THE MYSTERIOUS SOMEONE HAS NOT ONLY ALTERED THEIR PROGRAMMING, BUT STRENGTHENED THE ROBOTS AS WELL!
WHICH MAKES ME EVEN MORE CURIOUS-- AND DETERMINED-- TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
K'RANG
AND WHEN THE ROBOTS ARE DEACTIVATED, THE ACTION ACE HEARS AN ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR WHIRRRR...
LASERS! I DESIGNED THEM TO ENTRAP ANY FORTRESS INTRUDERS--
--NOT ATTACK!
EEARG! THAT STUNG!
7

ARE ALL THESE IMPOSSIBLE THINGS REALLY HAPPENING?
I SHOULD BE INVULNERABLE TO LASER BEAMS--YET I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HIT BY AN ULTRA-POWERFUL BATTERING RAM!
KROKK
WHAT NEXT, I WONDER--?
FORTRESS BEGINNING TO BLUR... CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT... AS IF--
--KRYPTONITE GAS!!
WHAKKO
GETTING SO TERRIBLY WEAK... I'M A PUSHOVER FOR THE SEC-ROBOT'S ATTACK--!
GOT A BREAK AT LAST--THAT LAST BLOW CLEARED MY HEAD A BIT!
STILL HARD TO FOCUS...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE TO SEE TO KNOW I'M FALLING INTO THE DISINTEGRATION PIT!
AND RIGHT NOW I WOULDN'T WANT TO BET IT ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO DESTROY EVEN ME!
K-GAS KEEPING ME WOOZY... CAN'T FLY OUT YET...
...BUT MAYBE I CAN SLOW DOWN MY FALL...
SCREEEEEEE!
WHEW! JUST MANAGED TO SLIDE TO A STOP ABOVE THE PIT -- THOUGH MY SECURITY-ROBOT WASN'T SO LUCKY!
SSSSSSSS
8
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THE CHOCOLATE BARON. A CROOK WHOSE LOVE OF CHOCOLATY GOODNESS HAS LED HIM TO MONOPOLIZE EVERYTHING CHOCOLATE HE CAN CONTROL.
ROBOT PLANE... CIRCLE THE ISLAND UNTIL I NEED YOU!
SOON I'LL CONTROL EVERYTHING THAT'S CHOCOLATY ...AND THE GREAT TASTE WILL BE MINE--ALL MINE.
BY HERA, I PLAN TO STOP YOUR NEFARIOUS ENTERPRISE. AND YOUR BULLETS WON'T STOP ME. I CAME PREPARED.
WONDER WOMAN HERSELF. GET HER, BOYS.
HOSTESS® CUP CAKES.
OH, SO CHOCOLATY. CHOCOLATY CAKE. CHOCOLATY ICING.
YOU AND YOUR HENCHMEN WERE EASILY TAKEN, BARON!
TAKEN WITH THE CHOCOLATY TASTE OF HOSTESS® CUP CAKES! YOUR MAGIC LASSO COMPELS ME TO SPEAK THE TRUTH--
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® CUP CAKES

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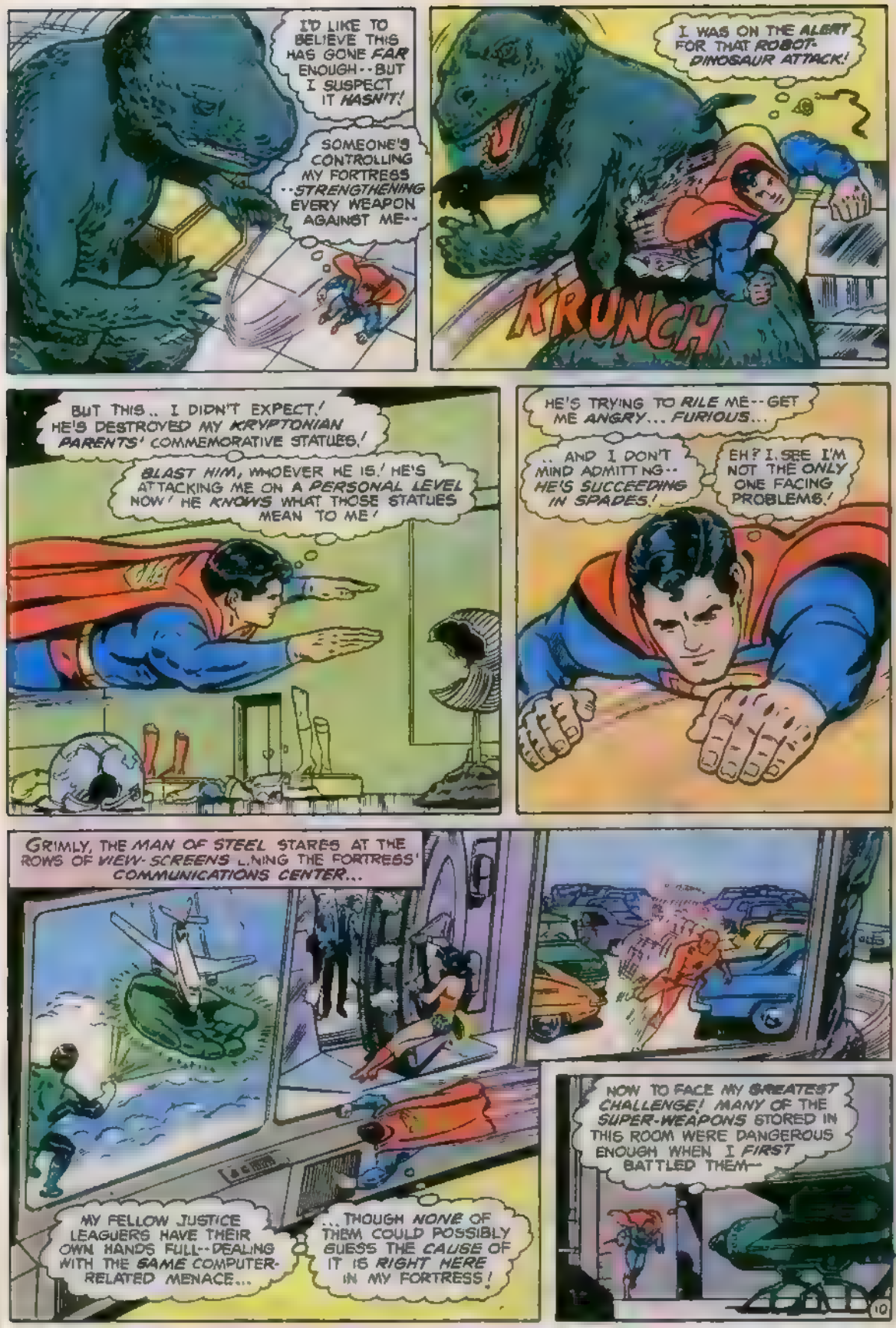
FEEL STRONGER NOW... THERE'S NO GAS IN THE PIT TO KEEP ME WEAK...
OH-OH--ANOTHER ROBOT SENT BY KEEPING ME FROM BREACHING SECURITY!
OKAY... LET'S TRY A BURST OF SUPER-SPEED TO GET ME SAFELY INSIDE THE TROPHY ROOM BEFORE IT CAN MAKE A MOVE TO STOP ME!
SKRE-AKKK!
MADE IT--TO FIND MY SNEAKY ATTACKER NOT HERE!
I DON'T LIKE THIS! I'VE SPENT YEARS MAKING THE FORTRESS SECURE FROM INVASION --TO ALLOW ME ONE PLACE ON EARTH I CAN BE ALONE!
TROPHY TAKEN WHILE STOPPING TOYMAN'S "JACK IN THE BOX" CRIMES
CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT IS JUST THAT--AN APARTMENT! BUT THIS FORTRESS IS MY HOME--
--AND KNOWING IT'S BEEN VIOLATED MAKES ME FEEL AS HELPLESS AS ANY MAN WHOSE HOME HAS EVER BEEN ENTERED AGAINST HIS WILL!
AS THE SAYING GOES, A MAN'S HOME SHOULD BE HIS CAS-- EH--?
ANOTHER ATTACK? GREAT SUNS-- HAS MY ENTIRE FORTRESS BEEN SET AGAINST ME?
WHILE SUPERMAN FACES THE DEADLY MISSILES ON THE FORTRESS'S FIRST LEVEL, LET'S MOVE UP TO ITS SECOND LEVEL COMPUTER ROOM...
SUPERMAN HAS COME... SOONER THAN I EXPECTED! BUT HE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS...
...NOT NOW, WHEN I AM SO CLOSE TO ACHIEVING THE ULTIMATE POWER!


I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH--BUT I SUSPECT IT HASN'T!
SOMEONE'S CONTROLLING MY FORTRESS--STRENGTHENING EVERY WEAPON AGAINST ME--
I WAS ON THE ALERT FOR THAT ROBOT-DINOSAUR ATTACK!
KRUNCH
BUT THIS.. I DIDN'T EXPECT! HE'S DESTROYED MY KRYPTONIAN PARENTS' COMMEMORATIVE STATUES!
BLAST HIM, WHOEVER HE IS! HE'S ATTACKING ME ON A PERSONAL LEVEL NOW! HE KNOWS WHAT THOSE STATUES MEAN TO ME!
HE'S TRYING TO RILE ME--GET ME ANGRY... FURIOUS...
.. AND I DON'T MIND ADMITTING-- HE'S SUCCEEDING IN SPADES!
EH? I SEE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE FACING PROBLEMS!
GRIMLY, THE MAN OF STEEL STARES AT THE ROWS OF VIEW-SCREENS LINING THE FORTRESS' COMMUNICATIONS CENTER...
MY FELLOW JUSTICE LEAGUERS HAVE THEIR OWN HANDS FULL--DEALING WITH THE SAME COMPUTER-RELATED MENACE...
...THOUGH NONE OF THEM COULD POSSIBLY GUESS THE CAUSE OF IT IS RIGHT HERE IN MY FORTRESS!
NOW TO FACE MY GREATEST CHALLENGE! MANY OF THE SUPER-WEAPONS STORED IN THIS ROOM WERE DANGEROUS ENOUGH WHEN I FIRST BATTLED THEM--
10

-- RAO ONLY KNOWS WHAT THEY COULD DO IF THEIR POWER WAS STRENGTHENED!
GOT TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE MIND-MOLDER! IT'S BEEN ALTERED TO SHOOT OUT INVISIBLE RAYS--!
-- AND ONCE THEY STRIKE YOU-- THE EFFECT IS INSTANTANEOUS!
EVERYTHING'S DISTORTED! EVEN CLOSING MY EYES DOESN'T STOP ME FROM THIS CRAZINESS... BECOMING MENTALLY UNBALANCED!
UNLESS I DESTROY THAT MIND-MOLDER, I'LL BE FOREVER LOST IN THIS MAD ILLUSION!
THE FORTRESS SPINS SAVAGELY ABOUT HIM LIKE SOME KALEIDOSCOPE GONE WILD BUT VALIANTLY, THE MAN OF TOMORROW LAUNCHES FORWARD UNTIL...
LUCKILY, I WAS FACED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WHEN THAT INSANITY BEGAN!
KRUNCH!
I CAN SEE CLEARLY AGAIN-- CAUGHT BRAINIAC'S RED-SUN SIMULATOR BEGINNING TO GLOW!
BUT BEFORE IT CAN WEAKEN ME--IT'S SHATTERED BY SUPER-BREATH!
IF MY ATTACKER IS HIDING HERE, I'LL FIND HIM--
--EVEN IF I HAVE TO FIGHT OFF EVERY WEAPON IN THIS ROOM!
11

AS IF IN RESPONSE TO SUPERMAN'S CHALLENGE...
YEEE-AAARRG!
:GASP!: LUTHOR'S KILLER-ROBOT-- BUT :GASP! I HAD REMOVED ITS :GASP: DEADLY KRYPTONITE GAZE...
BEING DRAINED OF STRENGTH... GETTING WEAKER... BUT I CAN'T GIVE IN...
SUPERMAN NEVER GIVES IN!
HERE IT COMES! A MULTI-WEAPON ATTACK!
I...I CAN'T GIVE IN...I CAN'T.
I WON'T GIVE IN!
I WON'T GIVE IN!
LIKE A SONIC HAMMER, SUPERMAN'S SUPER-SHOUT PULSATES OUTWARD..
TEN BILLION DEADLY DECIBELS OF SENSES-SHATTERING SOUND, ALL UNDULATING... OSCILLATING, VIBRATING...
...AND LIKE A SINGER'S HIGH-PITCHED CRY SHATTERING CRYSTAL..
...SUPERMAN'S SUPER-SCREAM..
...TOTALLY...
...DESTROYS!
12

WHEW! I'M NOT SURE I'D HAVE HAD THE STRENGTH FOR A SECOND TRY!
DO I EVEN HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO RUN THIS OBSTACLE COURSE TO MY FOE--?
BUT THEN I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, DO I?
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, AS LONG AS I CAN STILL FIGHT... AS LONG AS I'M STILL SUPERMAN--
--I'VE GOT TO TRY!
I WONDER WHY I DIDN'T THINK TO CHECK OUT MY COMPUTER ROOM FIRST--MAYBE BECAUSE MY FOE BLOCKED THAT THOUGHT?
SO I'LL SKIP THE ARCHIVES AND THE ZOO--
SPEAKING OF THE ZOO, MY NEMESIS IS STILL TRYING TO DELAY MY REACHING HIM BY RELEASING THOSE CREATURES!
I'VE NO TIME FOR A LONG BRAWL--SO I'LL WRAP THIS UP -
--BY CONTAINING THE BEASTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
THEY'LL BE SAFE--IF NOT QUITE COMFORTABLE!
AND NOW TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH--
SKRAMM
13

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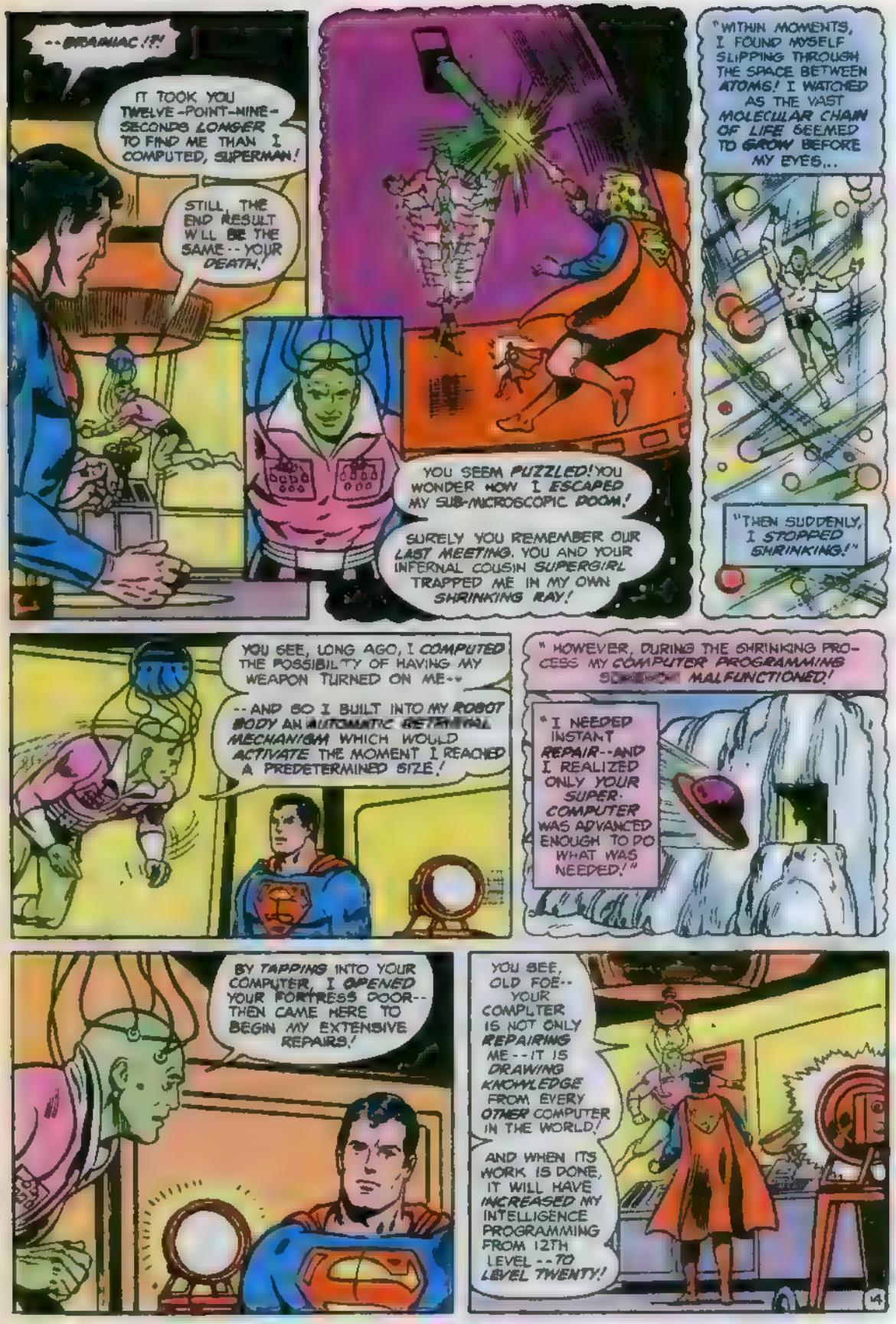
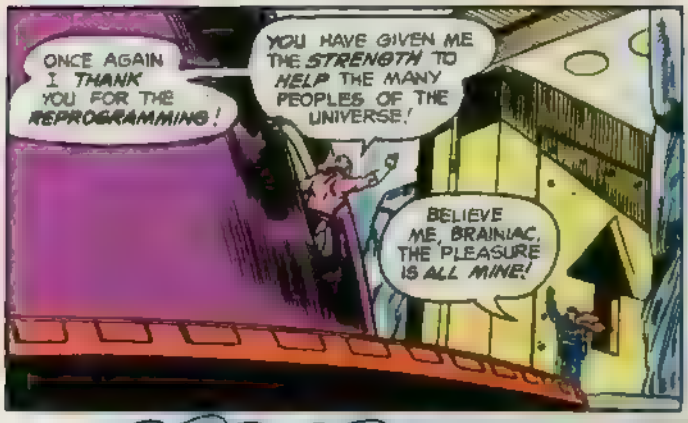
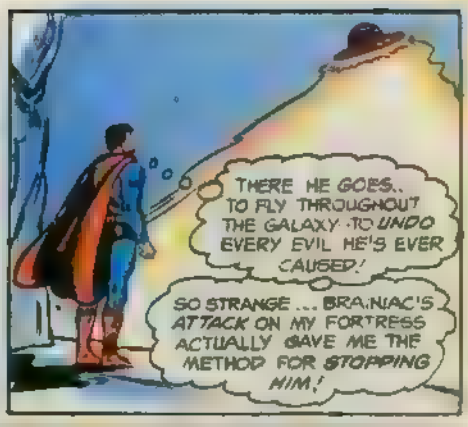
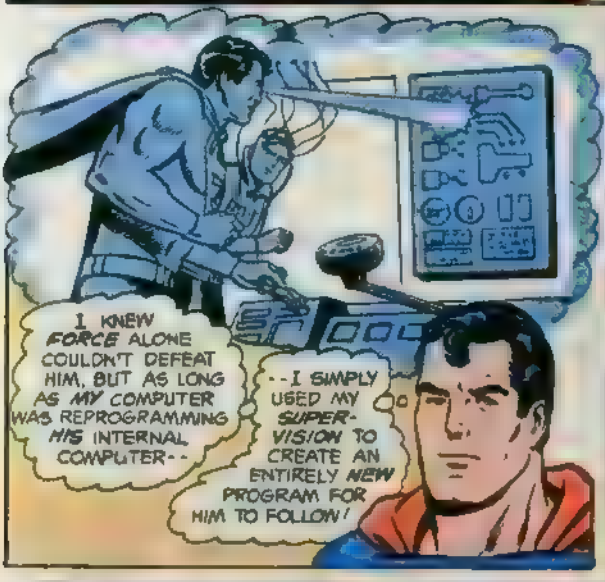

--BRAINIAC!?!
IT TOOK YOU TWELVE-POINT-NINE-SECONDS LONGER TO FIND ME THAN I COMPUTED, SUPERMAN!
STILL, THE END RESULT WILL BE THE SAME--YOUR DEATH!
YOU SEEM PUZZLED! YOU WONDER HOW I ESCAPED MY SUB-MICROSCOPIC DOOM!
SURELY YOU REMEMBER OUR LAST MEETING. YOU AND YOUR INFERNAL COUSIN SUPERGIRL TRAPPED ME IN MY OWN SHRINKING RAY!
"WITHIN MOMENTS, I FOUND MYSELF SLIPPING THROUGH THE SPACE BETWEEN ATOMS! I WATCHED AS THE VAST MOLECULAR CHAIN OF LIFE SEEMED TO GROW BEFORE MY EYES...
"THEN SUDDENLY, I STOPPED SHRINKING!"
YOU SEE, LONG AGO, I COMPUTED THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING MY WEAPON TURNED ON ME--
--AND SO I BUILT INTO MY ROBOT BODY AN AUTOMATIC RETRIEVAL MECHANISM WHICH WOULD ACTIVATE THE MOMENT I REACHED A PREDETERMINED SIZE!
" HOWEVER, DURING THE SHRINKING PROCESS MY COMPUTER PROGRAMMING [illegible] MALFUNCTIONED!
"I NEEDED INSTANT REPAIR--AND I REALIZED ONLY YOUR SUPER-COMPUTER WAS ADVANCED ENOUGH TO DO WHAT WAS NEEDED!"
BY TAPPING INTO YOUR COMPUTER, I OPENED YOUR FORTRESS DOOR--THEN CAME HERE TO BEGIN MY EXTENSIVE REPAIRS!
YOU SEE, OLD FOE--YOUR COMPUTER IS NOT ONLY REPAIRING ME--IT IS DRAWING KNOWLEDGE FROM EVERY OTHER COMPUTER IN THE WORLD!
AND WHEN ITS WORK IS DONE, IT WILL HAVE INCREASED MY INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMMING FROM 12TH LEVEL--TO LEVEL TWENTY!

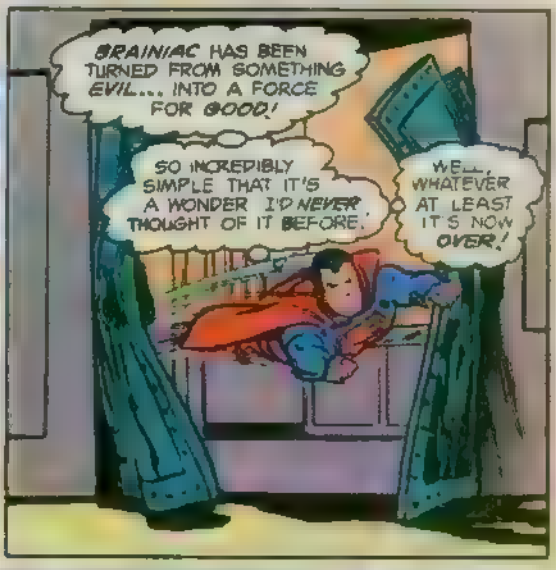
AND ONCE THAT IS DONE, THEN NOTHING ON EARTH WILL BE ABLE TO STOP ME!
NOTHING ON EARTH-- AND NOTHING IN THE UNIVERSE!
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, BRAINIAC--100 PER CENT WRONG!
ZZZZZZZZZZZZ
YOU DODGED THE PHANTOM ZONE RAY?! HOW COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN?
I MAY BE A MERE SIXTH-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE--
--BUT I KNOW YOUR EVIL MIND!
AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH KNOWLEDGE YOU GAIN--
--YOU'RE STILL EMINENTLY PREDICTABLE!
SO YOU BELIEVE, OLD FOE--
--AND, AS USUAL, YOU ARE GROSSLY INCORRECT!
YOU HAVE NEGLECTED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL THOSE YEARS THE CITY OF KANDOR WAS MINE--
--AND FROM THE KNOWLEDGE I GLEANED, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL ALL
I AM NOW FOCUSING ALL YOUR FORTRESS POWER INTO YOU, SUPERMAN--
--A POWER SO INCREDIBLE IT WILL LITERALLY RIP YOU APART!
SPRAKK
WITHIN SECONDS THE POWER-LEVEL WILL REACH ITS TERMINAL POINT!
AND THEN, OLD FOE--YOU WILL EXPLODE!
NOT IF I CAN TRANSFER THAT POWER-SUPPLY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
15

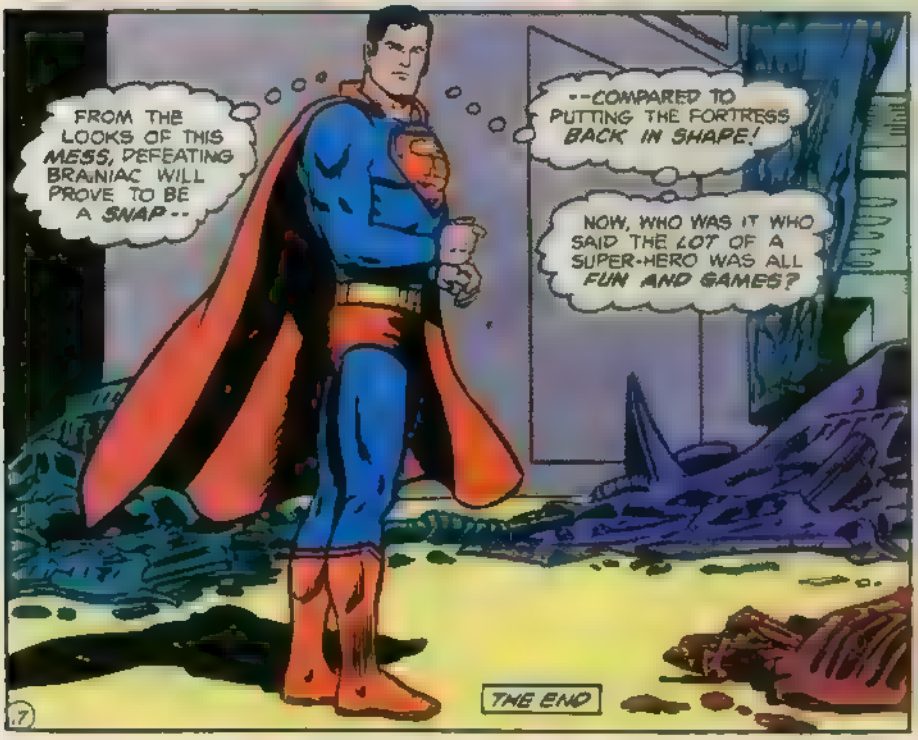
FAR FASTER THAN ANY ROCKET DREAMED OF BY MAN, SUPERMAN FRANTICALLY HURTLES THROUGH THE ENDLESS COSMOS UNTIL,
ONLY TOOK AN EXTRA THREE SECONDS TO REACH THE CAPELLA STAR SYSTEM--
--BUT AS LONG AS I HAD TO RELEASE MY EXTRA ENERGY SOMEWHERE, IT MIGHT JUST AS WELL BE HERE!
GRIMLY, INSTANTLY, THE MAN OF STEEL DIVES INTO THE DYING SUN...
FAWHOOOM
CAPELLA WAS A DYING ORANGE STAR ..ONE I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REKINDLE FOR MONTHS NOW!
STRANGE TO THINK-- IN TRYING TO KILL ME, BRAINIAC ACTUALLY SAVED AN ENTIRE PLANETARY SYSTEM FROM DESTRUCTION!
WITH THEIR SUN THRIVING ONCE MORE, CAPELLA'S SIXTEEN PLANETS HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE AT LIFE!
THEY'LL DO WELL, BUT THE QUESTION NOW IS--HOW WILL EARTH FARE?
YOU SURVIVED? IT SEEMS I'VE UNDERESTIMATED YOUR INTELLIGENCE
SOMETHING I WILL NOT DO AGAIN!
IT IS ALL OVER NOW, OLD FRIEND!
I'M AWARE OF THAT, BRAINIAC!
YOU WILL SHOW ME TO MY SHIP, AS PROMISED?
OF COURSE, FRIEND! I WOULDN'T MISS THIS FOR...THE WORLD!
16


ONCE AGAIN I THANK YOU FOR THE REPROGRAMMING!
YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THE STRENGTH TO HELP THE MANY PEOPLES OF THE UNIVERSE!
BELIEVE ME, BRAINIAC, THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE!


THERE HE GOES.. TO FLY THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY TO UNDO EVERY EVIL HE'S EVER CAUSED!
SO STRANGE ... BRAINIAC'S ATTACK ON MY FORTRESS ACTUALLY GAVE ME THE METHOD FOR STOPPING HIM!


I KNEW FORCE ALONE COULDN'T DEFEAT HIM, BUT AS LONG AS MY COMPUTER WAS REPROGRAMMING HIS INTERNAL COMPUTER--
--I SIMPLY USED MY SUPER-VISION TO CREATE AN ENTIRELY NEW PROGRAM FOR HIM TO FOLLOW!


BRAINIAC HAS BEEN TURNED FROM SOMETHING EVIL... INTO A FORCE FOR GOOD!
SO INCREDIBLY SIMPLE THAT IT'S A WONDER I'D NEVER THOUGHT OF IT BEFORE!
WELL, WHATEVER AT LEAST IT'S NOW OVER!


FROM THE LOOKS OF THIS MESS, DEFEATING BRAINIAC WILL PROVE TO BE A SNAP--
--COMPARED TO PUTTING THE FORTRESS BACK IN SHAPE!
NOW, WHO WAS IT WHO SAID THE LOT OF A SUPER-HERO WAS ALL FUN AND GAMES?
THE END

NEXT ISSUE:

SUPERMAN COMES FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE IMMORTAL VANDAL SAVAGE IN:

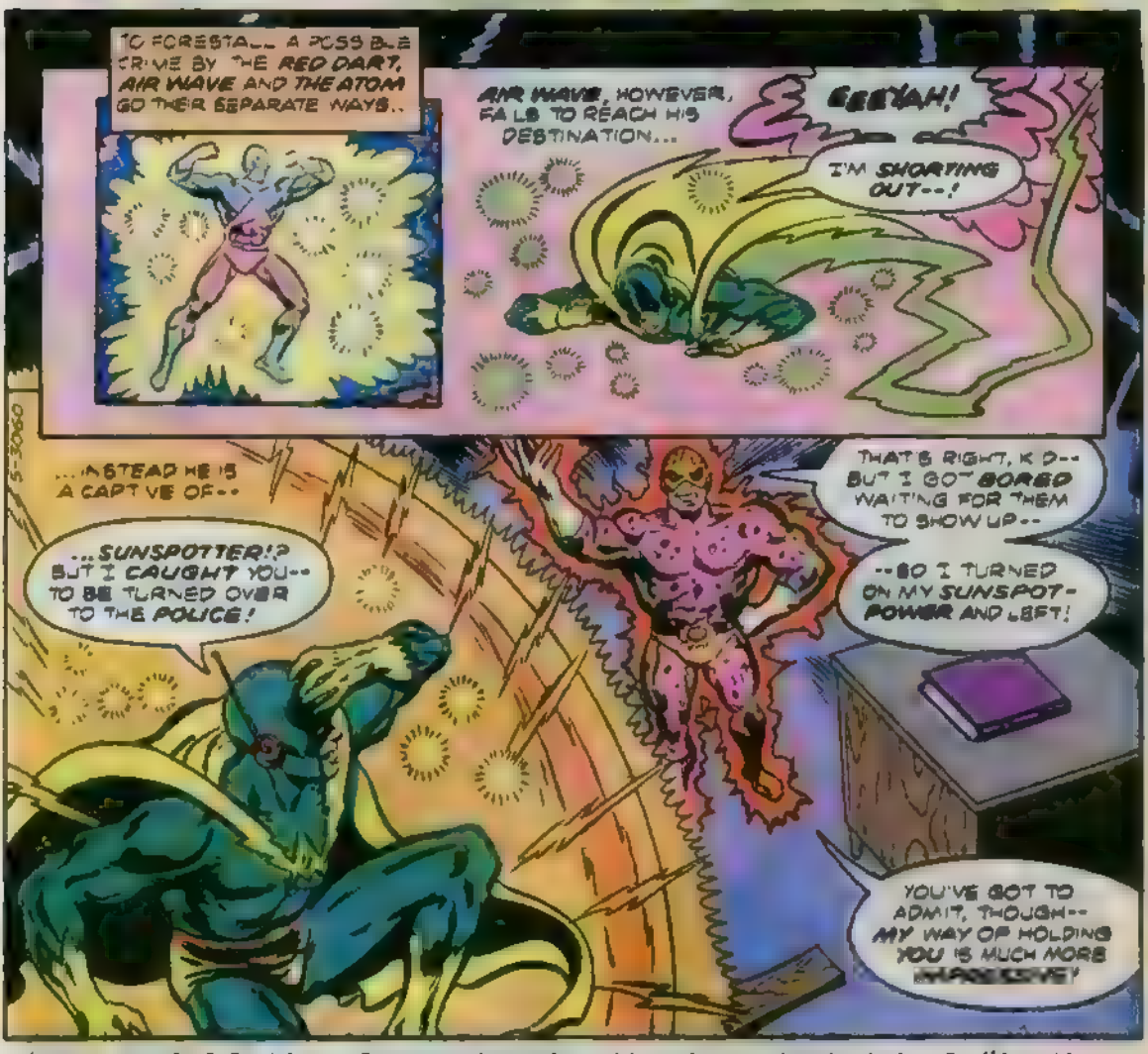
"THIS IS MY WORLD, AND YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT!"

ON SALE OCT. 9! IT'S A DATE!

WITH A HELMET DESIGNED BY HIS DECEASED FATHER, *HAL JORDAN* CARRIES ON A FAMILY TRADITION BY RIDING RADIO WAVES. UTILIZING A FRAGMENT OF A WHITE DWARF STAR, *RAY PALMER* GAVE HIMSELF THE ABILITY TO SHRINK TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE. TOGETHER THESE HEROES ARE THE *ACTION-PLUS ADVENTURERS...*

AIR WAVE™ and The ATOM™

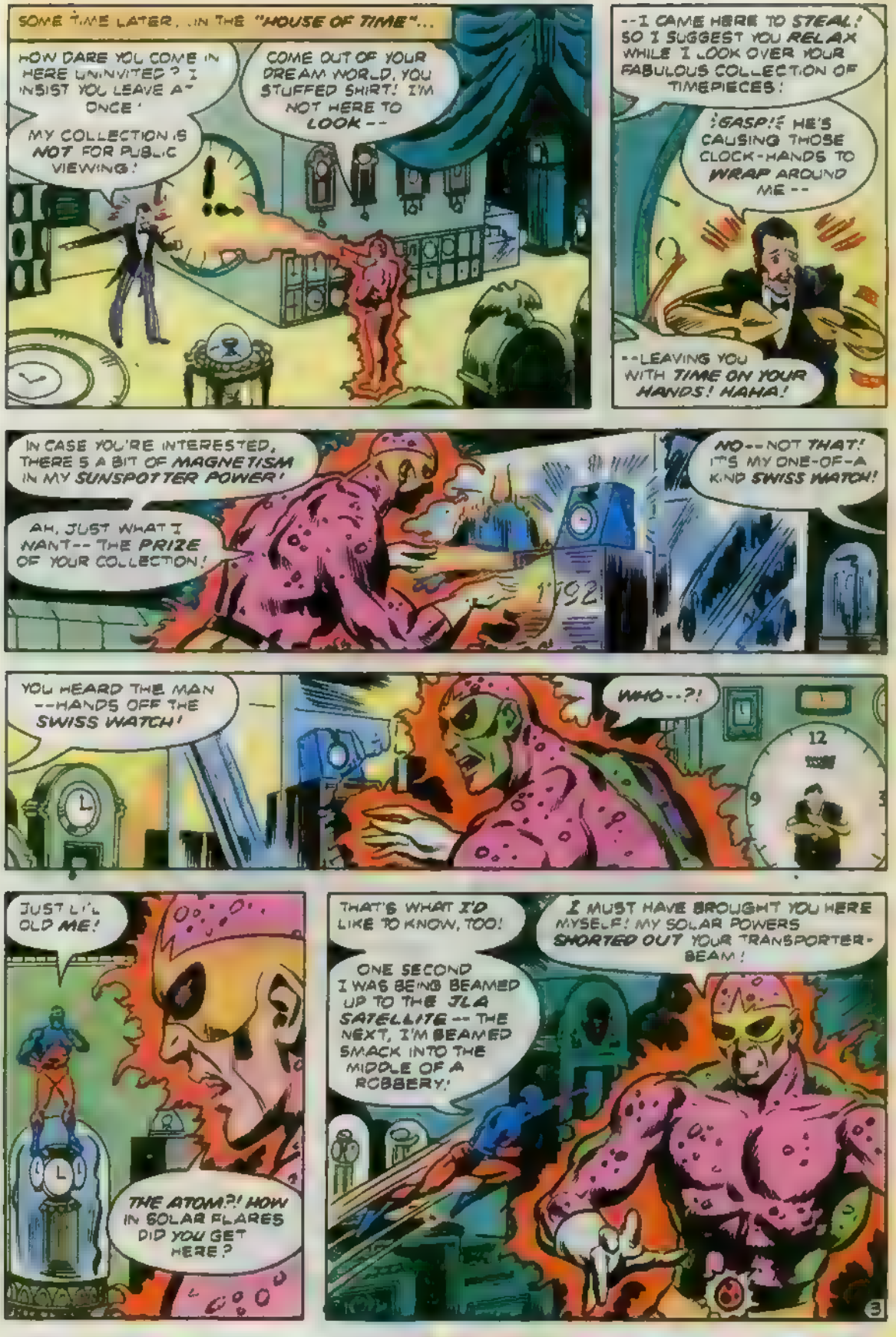
BOB ROZAKIS-*WRITER* ROMEO TANGHAL-*PENCILER*
KIM DEMULDER-*INKER* SHELLY LEFERMAN-*LETTERER*
S. TOBOCOMAN-*COLORIST* JULIUS SCHWARTZ-*EDITOR*


TO FORESTALL A POSSIBLE CRIME BY THE *RED DART*, *AIR WAVE* AND *THE ATOM* GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS..
AIR WAVE, HOWEVER, FAILS TO REACH HIS DESTINATION...
EEEYAH!
I'M *SHORTING OUT--!*
...INSTEAD HE IS A CAPTIVE OF--
...*SUNSPOTTER!?* BUT I *CAUGHT* YOU-- TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE *POLICE!*
THAT'S RIGHT, K'D-- BUT I GOT *BORED* WAITING FOR THEM TO SHOW UP--
--SO I TURNED ON MY *SUNSPOT-POWER* AND LEFT!
YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT, THOUGH-- *MY* WAY OF HOLDING *YOU* IS MUCH MORE

AMONG THE BITS OF ADVICE *GREEN LANTERN* HAS GIVEN HIS YOUNG COUSIN IS: *"DON'T GET SIDETRACKED WHEN YOU'RE ON A CASE!"* SO IMAGINE *AIR WAVE'S* DISTRESS WHEN HIS *"DETOUR"* LEADS TO HIS BECOMING A PERMANENT PART OF...

SUNSPOTTER'S CRIME COLLECTION!

HE'S NOT KIDDING! HE'S GOT ME CAUGHT IN AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELD -- WHICH SHORTS OUT MY POWERS!
ALL RIGHT, SUNSPOTTER -- WHAT'S THE POINT? YOU PLANNING TO KILL ME?
I REALLY SHOULD -- AFTER THE WAY YOU RUINED MY LAST CAPERS --
--BUT KEEPING YOU ALIVE WILL PROVE MUCH MORE SATISFYING TO ME... IF NOT TO YOU!
THE "POINT" IS I'M KEEPING YOU A PRISONER HERE--IN ORDER TO HAVE YOU LISTEN TO ME BRAG ABOUT MY ROBBERIES!
WHAT'S THE GOOD OF PULLING OFF A PERFECT CRIME IF I CAN'T BOAST ABOUT IT TO SOMEONE!
SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL RESIGN YOURSELF TO BEING STUCK HERE--FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
DON'T BET ON IT! SOMEBODY IS BOUND TO COME LOOKING FOR ME!
LIKE WHO -- YOUR FAMILY? I KNOW YOU SUPER-HERO TYPES -- YOU LIKE TO KEEP YOUR IDENTITIES A SECRET!
HE'S RIGHT! COUSIN JACK AND JAN DON'T KNOW I'M A SUPER-HERO .. AND COULD NEVER FIND ME HERE--
--WHEREVER HERE IS!
NOW LET'S SEE WHO IN THIS SOCIAL REGISTER WILL MAKE A LIKELY PROSPECT.
AAAHH-- FOUND ONE!
2


SOME TIME LATER, IN THE "HOUSE OF TIME"...
HOW DARE YOU COME IN HERE UNINVITED? I INSIST YOU LEAVE AT ONCE!
MY COLLECTION IS NOT FOR PUBLIC VIEWING!
COME OUT OF YOUR DREAM WORLD, YOU STUFFED SHIRT! I'M NOT HERE TO LOOK--
--I CAME HERE TO STEAL! SO I SUGGEST YOU RELAX WHILE I LOOK OVER YOUR FABULOUS COLLECTION OF TIMEPIECES!
!GASP!E HE'S CAUSING THOSE CLOCK-HANDS TO WRAP AROUND ME--
--LEAVING YOU WITH TIME ON YOUR HANDS! HAHA!
IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED, THERE'S A BIT OF MAGNETISM IN MY SUNSPOTTER POWER!
AH, JUST WHAT I WANT-- THE PRIZE OF YOUR COLLECTION!
NO--NOT THAT! IT'S MY ONE-OF-A KIND SWISS WATCH!
YOU HEARD THE MAN --HANDS OFF THE SWISS WATCH!
WHO--?!
JUST LI'L OLD ME!
THE ATOM?! HOW IN SOLAR FLARES DID YOU GET HERE?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW, TOO!
ONE SECOND I WAS BEING BEAMED UP TO THE JLA SATELLITE -- THE NEXT, I'M BEAMED SMACK INTO THE MIDDLE OF A ROBBERY!
I MUST HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE MYSELF! MY SOLAR POWERS SHORTED OUT YOUR TRANSPORTER-BEAM!
3

AS LONG AS I'M HERE, I MIGHT AS WELL DO MY THING--
--TURN ON MY WEIGHT-CONTROL AND PUT MY FULL 180 POUNDS BEHIND THIS PUNCH!
A SOLAR BURST WILL DEACTIVATE THE ATOM--!
WHA--? THAT FLARE'S... GRABBING ME...SPINNING ME AROUND!
GETTING DIZZY...BLACKING OUT...
SHORTLY, AS THE SOLAR VILLAIN RETURNS TO HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS...
HIYA, KID I'M BACK... WITH A ROBBERY THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING TO BRAG ABOUT!
I SWIPED THE NUMBER ONE PR 28 OF J. NUBERT WELLINGTON'S "TIME" COLLECTION--A PRICELESS SWISS WATCH MADE IN 1792!
AND YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW I BROUGHT BACK SOMETHING SPECIAL TO KEEP YOU COMPANY--
THE ATOM--?!
THAT'S RIGHT, KID-- AND HE'LL BE HANGING AROUND HERE, TOO!
NOW WATCH THIS: BY RAPIDLY DROPPING THE TEMPERATURE OF MY SUNSPOTTER POWER, I CAN CAUSE AN OBJECT TO FREEZE--
--LIKE SO!
THE ATOM-ICICLE WILL KEEP YOU FROM GETTING LONESOME WHILE I'M OFF AN ANOTHER JOB!
4

NOW TO CONSULT THE SOCIAL REGISTER FOR MY NEXT VICTIM...
AND WHEN SUNSPOTTER LEAVES...
GREEN ARROW ALWAYS SAYS TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE--
--BUT HOW DO I GET THE ATOM'S HELP IN ESCAPING...
...WHEN IT'LL TAKE HOURS FOR THAT ICICLE TO MELT?
WAITASEC! THE ANSWER IS STARING ME IN THE FACE!
A SINGLE DROP IS ALL I NEED--!
BY PUNCHING THIS BUBBLE OF ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ENERGY UNDER THE DRIPPING WATER--I MIGHT SHORT IT OUT!
I LEARNED IN MY SCIENCE CLASS THAT WATER AND ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX!
GOT TO MANEUVER THE BUBBLE RIGHT UNDER THE ICICLE!

BRZAKK
EUREKA! IT WORKED!
NOW THAT I'M OUT, I CAN USE MY POWERS AGAIN...
--TO GET UP TO THE ATOM-ICICLE...
--AND SNAP IT OFF THE CEILING!
SURE HOPE HE HASN'T FROZEN TO DEATH IN THIS THING!
THEN, HOLDING THE ICICLE OVER THE STOVE-BURNER...
UNNNHH... WHAT HIT ME? LAST THING I REMEMBER, I WAS ABOUT TO PUNCH OUT SUNSPOTTER--
--AND GOT ZAPPED INSTEAD!
AFTER THE HEROES EXCHANGE STORIES...
WE COULD WAIT FOR SUNSPOTTER TO COME BACK AND WAYLAY HIM HERE--BUT I'D RATHER CATCH HIM RED-HANDED!
IF WE ONLY KNEW WHERE HE WENT--!
MAYBE WE CAN FIND OUT!
HE SAID HE'D PICK OUT A VICTIM IN THE SOCIAL REGISTER! HE RAN HIS FINGER DOWN THIS PAGE--
--BUT WHERE DID HE STOP? THERE'S NO INDICATION THAT I CAN SEE--
--BUT MAYBE I CAN FIND ONE BY SHRINKING DOWN IN SIZE!
6

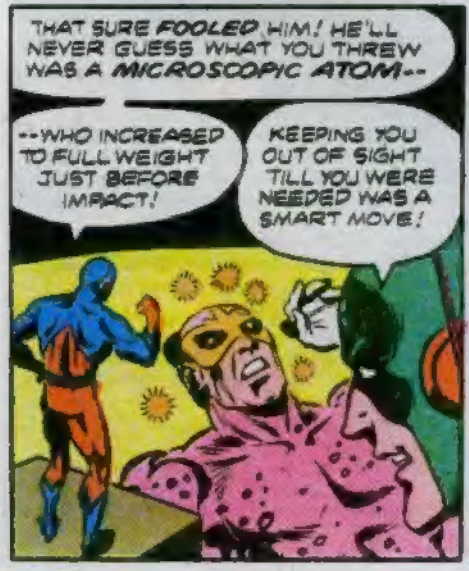
JUST AS I HOPED -- SUNSPOTTER'S FIERY FINGER CHARRED THE PAPER FIBERS SLIGHTLY, LEAVING US THE CLUE WE NEED!
WHAT DID YOU SAY? I COULD HARDLY HEAR YOUR TINY VOICE!
SINCE WE ALREADY KNOW WHAT THE ATOM SAID, LET'S JUMP AHEAD A FEW MINUTES--
--AS AIR WAVE, WITH THE TINY TITAN RIDING HIS RADIO-WAVE WAKE, ARRIVES AT THE HOBBY ROOM WHERE MILLIONAIRE BANKER BAINFORTH C. THRUSTON KEEPS HIS PRIZE COLLECTION OF MECHANICAL BANKS...
JUST TWO MORE SCREWS TO MAGNETICALLY REMOVE, AND THAT SOLID GOLD PIGGY BANK WILL BE MINE!
SUNSPOTTER'S POWERS COULD SHORT ME OUT-- BUT BEFORE HE HAS THE CHANCE...
...I'LL TURN THEM OFF--
--AND DELIVER THE PUNCH THAT THE ATOM OWES HIM!
PWOW
AIR WAVE?! YOU COULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED...
NO? THEN I GUESS I'M NOT HERE--
--AND YOU CAN'T FEEL THIS--
OOOF! WHAT MADE ME MISS--?
KRAKA-BOOM!
7

YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN, KID! I HAVE SECRET ABILITIES YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT--LIKE CREATING THUNDERCLAPS!
KRAKARA-BOOM

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH MYSTERIOUS POWERS, SUNSPOTTER! I'VE GOT ONE OF MY OWN...

...MY VENTRILOQUIST-PUNCH!
I THROW IT FROM HERE--
HAHA!

--AND YOU FEEL IT OVER THERE!
THWAM!
UHNGG!


THAT SURE FOOLED HIM! HE'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT YOU THREW WAS A MICROSCOPIC ATOM--
--WHO INCREASED TO FULL WEIGHT JUST BEFORE IMPACT!
KEEPING YOU OUT OF SIGHT TILL YOU WERE NEEDED WAS A SMART MOVE!

SPEAKING OF MOVES--I'VE GOT TO GET MOVING! I'M DUE FOR JLA MONITOR DUTY!
A PIECE OF CAKE, ATOM!
I ASSUME YOU CAN HANDLE THE MOP-UP ON THIS CHARACTER?
THIS TIME I'M GETTING HIM TO JAIL BEFORE HE WAKES UP!
NEXT ISSUE: AN ATOM SOLO ADVENTURE...
"SORRY, WRONG POWERS!"